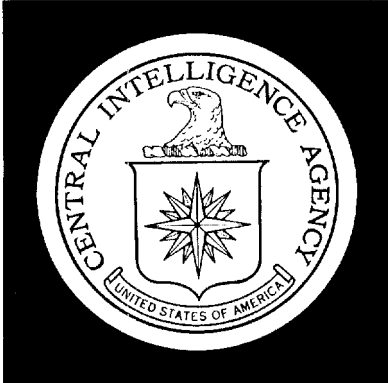


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NATO: The North Atlantic Council has undertaken a fundamental review of the long-term defense requirements of the Alliance.

In a [ ] meeting of the NATO permanent representatives on 24 March, it was agreed that important new elements in the political and military equation between East and West necessitated a thorough study of Allied defense problems in the 70s. This decision resulted from an initiative of Secretary General Brosio who expressed his concern about the NATO defense posture in a recent memorandum.

Brosio cited the changing US-Soviet strategic balance, the evolving Western view of the Soviet military threat, and the differing views within the Alliance and on the part of the US about sharing the defense burden.

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[ ] countries urged at the meeting that no member reduce its forces pending completion of the study and that France be a participant in the review. It was also suggested that some concrete results be produced in time for the NATO ministerial meeting in December.

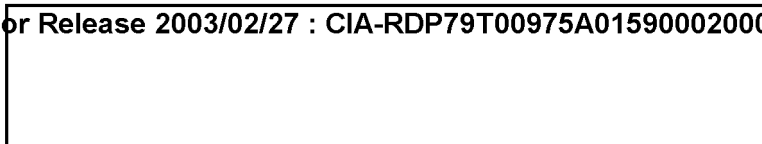
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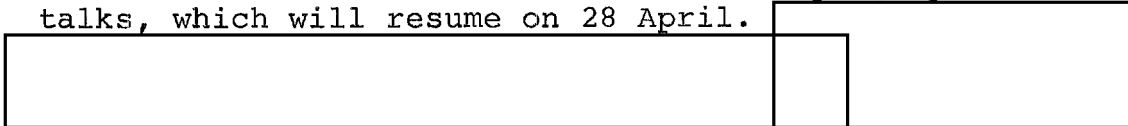
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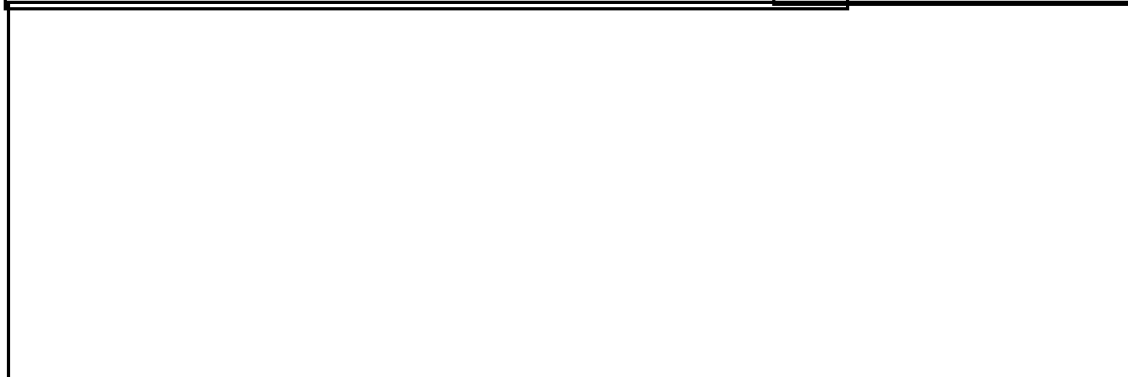
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USSR-Berlin: Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov's statement at the first round of the Four Power talks on Berlin reiterated the position Moscow had staked out in earlier public statements. Abrasimov implied that the improvement of access to and conditions within the Western sectors of the city should properly be subject to negotiations between the West Berlin Government and East Germany. He insisted that the Four Powers should concern themselves with reducing "illegal" West German federal activities in the city, which he charged were contrary to all existing Four Power agreements. Nevertheless, Abrasimov indicated that Moscow is interested in keeping up the talks, which will resume on 28 April.

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